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Department of Environmental Resources

1875 New Hope Street
Norristown, PA 19401
215 270-1923

ORIGINAL
(RED)

May 29, 1984

David A. Jackson
Chester County Health Department
326 North Walnut Street
West Chester, PA

Dear Mr. Jackson:

This is in reply to your letter of May 15, 1984 regarding the contamination of stream sediment in the West Branch of Red Clay Creek.

We have reviewed the data you submitted and have taken the liberty to talk with USGS personnel directly regarding the analyses.

As you know we have a study in progress to determine the sources of pesticide and PCB contamination and have provided you with a copy of our most recent stream sediment data for PCBs and pesticides.

We have identified the major source of the PCB contamination. The responsible company (NVE) has implemented measures to remove the source of PCB's and is now developing a comprehensive study of groundwater, surface water and stream sediment to determine the extent of the PCB contamination and to develop a "clean-up" plan. We have recently instructed NVE to broaden their study to include other priority pollutants.

Our pesticide study to date indicates DDT (and its related compounds) is the most significant pesticide contaminant. An unnamed tributary to the West Branch of the Red Clay Creek flowing from the Toughkenamon area appears to be a major source of DDT's. We will implement additional sampling to confirm this initial finding and attempt to isolate sources of DDT.

The additional organic compounds found by the USGS seem to be combustion-related or coal-tar derivatives. Our initial opinion is that the majority of these compounds originated from the Norristown junkyard fire which occurred on May 29-30, 1980. Many of the compounds found by USGS in the sediment sample were previously detected by our laboratory in a stream-water sample collected on May 30, 1980, downstream of the junkyard.

We plan to obtain additional sediment and soil samples in the area to confirm or deny our preliminary assessment. We are also interested in obtaining groundwater samples in the area. If you have any groundwater sample results we would be very interested in obtaining a copy.

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The additional survey work we have detailed above is still in the planning stage and is dependent on the availability of our laboratory. If you have any suggestions and/or desire to coordinate or assist in the sampling you and your staff are most welcome.

Very truly yours,

JOSEPH A. PEDLA
Regional Water Quality Manager

cc: Mr. Stanley
Mr. Knorr
Mr. Steele
Re 30 30145.4

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